

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION FOR

**STEROL CARRIER PROTEIN-2 FROM THE MOSQUITO, *Aedes*
*Aegypti***

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8. A method of identifying whether a compound is an agonist or antagonist of AeSCP-2 biological activity, comprising the steps of:

(a) incubating an AeSCP-2 polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 or a biologically-active fragment thereof with a biological target in the presence of a compound; and

(b) measuring the ability of the compound to enhance or block the interaction between the AeSCP-2 polypeptide or fragment thereof and the biological target to thereby identify an agonist or antagonist effective in altering AeSCP-2 biological activity.

9. A method according to claim 8 wherein the biological target is cholesterol and the AeSCP-2 biological activity is cholesterol transport.

10. A method for identifying compounds which bind to or interact with an AeSCP-2 polypeptide or fragment thereof, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting an AeSCP-2 polypeptide or fragment thereof with a compound to be screened under conditions to permit binding to or interaction between the compound and the AeSCP-2 polypeptide or fragment thereof to assess the binding to or interaction with the compound, such binding or interaction being associated with a detectable signal in response to the binding or interaction of the AeSCP-2 polypeptide or fragment thereof with the compound; and

(b) determining whether the compound binds to or interacts with the AeSCP-2 polypeptide or fragment thereof by detecting the presence or absence of the signal generated from the binding or interaction of the compound with the AeSCP-2 polypeptide or fragment thereof.